Assignment: Reflection 1

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Course: CBSE 7201

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How do the ideals of social justice, collaboration, critical self-evaluation and diversity align with our course objectives and outcomes, and pertain to us in our role as pedagogues?

This course demonstrates the School of Education’s Conceptual Framework from Brooklyn College by requiring students to partake in all four themes as part of this class. As a student we are required to understand Action Research and how Action Research is used in education. In this process we will collaborate with peers, students, coworkers, parents, etc. Self-evaluation and self-awareness are always necessary for self-improvement. As teachers we must be aware of social justice both inside and outside of the classroom. In New York City diversity in the classroom will be almost a guarantee. NYC teachers must be able to adapt to the diverse backgrounds of each student.

Collaboration is very critical in our course. In this course we must actively collaborate with a variety of people in a variety of different ways to achieve our course objectives. Participation in the class is crucial. During class we discuss our thoughts and ideas about our own research papers. We must bring a paper copy of our homework to class for discussion and peer review. Through our active collaboration we can develop new ideas for our teaching and research. The use of technology is necessary in the class as well. When we collect, annotate, and cite articles, we have to use computers to assist us. As educators we need to actively collaborate in our career. Collaboration is a good way to avoid teachers’ isolation. The practice of collaboration can be difficult, however, there is much to be gained.

Critical self-reflection and reflective practice is another important theme in this course. Self-reflection is not only for our personal knowledge and opinions, but also for our professional practice. As educators we need to constantly reflect on our teaching methods, and students’ academic achievement. Reflective practice can reveal our weakness, strengths, and lead us to areas and methods of improving our teaching practice.

Social justice and injustice covers a wide of range of topics, including income inequality, social mobility, racial profiling, prejudice, the list goes on. As a teacher it is extremely important not to have prejudice. We can't grade or teach students based on any manner of appearance. Educational opportunity should be equal for all students, regardless of their backgrounds. My research subject for this class is directly related to social justice. In a general classroom new immigrant students are often treated worse than the other students. My intervention is intended to create a feeling of equality and respect among all the students.

Diversity in education is generally viewed as a positive influence for all students. Studies show diverse groups of people lead to better, more creative solutions. Race is not the only form of diversity. I can think of at least three important forms; religious, income and racial diversity. I find that students in a uniform classroom setting are more likely to grow up thinking they are better, or worse, than people in another group. A diverse classroom and learning experience is more likely to lead to a belief in the American ideal that we are all equal. In this research class my peers are a diverse mix of people. People come from a variety of backgrounds, but I still feel we all treated with respect in the class. All of my classes at Brooklyn College have been diverse but I don’t think all classes created a feeling of mutual respect for all students in the class. In my future classroom I will create feeling of respect among all of the diverse students.